

LANGUAGE

Practical World Language

Interlingua is a new auxiliary tongue for all the world, a natural language with regular, simplified grammar that has root words from national languages.

By **WATSON DAVIS**

► FOR CENTURIES men have dreamed of an international language whose words and sounds everyone could understand no matter what native tongue is used every day.

In the last century over 300 international languages have been invented. Some of these like Esperanto, Ido, and Occidental have enthusiastic devotees and even considerable literatures. But no world language has as yet become an international tool for communication and understanding.

A new international language is making its bow. It is not really new in the words that it uses. It is rooted in many languages of the world. The troublesome intricacies of grammar have been discarded. There is only one verb form in each tense, and nouns, adjectives and verbs don't agree as they must in some more complex languages.

Interlingua is the name of this new international language. This name has been adopted by a group of scholars who gave birth to the new language, even though in 1907 one of the earlier international languages did have the same name.

Not Overnight Creation

Interlingua is no overnight creation of one linguist or even one group of linguists. No one sat down and theorized as to what an international language should be. Instead almost three decades ago, in 1924, an ambassador-to-be, a chemist, several radio engineers, several educators, editors and linguistic experts started a long and detailed inquiry into what an international language should be.

Only now this work on an international auxiliary language has progressed from the stage of research and theory to a practical auxiliary language ready to be used to bring order into the chaos of world tongues. There are now two basic manuals, an Interlingua-English Dictionary and an Interlingua Grammar.

Interlingua is going to work in various ways. Businessmen are beginning to use it in writing their letters. Pamphlets for world distribution eliminate the need for a dozen linguistic versions by being written in Interlingua. The first periodical, named SCIENTIA INTERNATIONAL, is being issued for the first time this summer.

A scientific and educational organization, the International Auxiliary Language Asso-

ciation, abbreviated IALA, with headquarters in New York, has carried on the development of Interlingua and is now launching it as an addition to the world's intellectual and commercial resources.

The amazing thing about Interlingua is that the average American looking at it thinks at first glance that it is Spanish or perhaps French or Italian. It is very easy to read for anyone who knows a little of another language and even those who feel that they have neglected foreign languages find themselves understanding the gist of it at sight.

A Spanish-speaking person is likely to say, as he reads it with fluency, "What funny Spanish!" The Frenchman and the Italian will find Interlingua quite familiar. Chinese, Japanese, Arabs, and others who speak Oriental languages will find pleasing the lack of difficulties with grammar.

There is good reason why Interlingua seems so familiar to those who know something about national languages. It is developed from the consensus of three major sources of naturally international words. It uses the vocabulary of science and technology which is common to almost all the languages of the world, both East and West. It uses English roots where these are common to other languages. It has borrowed fundamentally from the Romance languages, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, etc.

Millions will find the Interlingua vocabu-

INTERLINGUA USES ROOT WORDS OF MANY LANGUAGES



Interlingua	chocolate
Albanian	çokollata
Arabic	shokolata
Bulgarian, Hebrew, Russian	shokolad
Catalan	xocolata
Chinese	chu ku li ch'iao ko li
Czech	çokláda
Danish	Chokolade
Dutch	chocolade
English, Portuguese, Spanish	chocolate
Estonian	šokolad
Finnish	suklaa
French	chocolat
German	Schokolade
Greek	sokoláta
Hawaiian	kokeleka
Hungarian	csokoládé
Irish	seocoláda
Italian	cioccolata
Lettish	šokolāde
Lithuanian	šokoladas
Norwegian	sjokolade
Persian	shukulâ
Polish	czokolada
Rumanian	ciocolata
Serbo-Croat	çokolada
Swedish	choklad
Turkish	çukulata

Interlingua banca



Interlingua	banca
Albanian, Bulgarian, Czech, Lettish, Serbo-Croat, Turkish	banka
Arabic, Dutch, English, Hungarian, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Swedish	bank
Catalan, Welsh	banc
Danish, German	Bank
Estonian	pank
Finnish	pankki
French	banque
Hawaiian	banako
Hebrew	banq
Hindustani	bank
Irish	bannca
Italian, Rumanian	banca
Japanese	banku
Lithuanian	bankas
Malay	bangku
Persian	bânk
Portuguese, Spanish	banco



Interlingua	capitano
Albanian	kapitani
Arabic	kabten
Bulgarian, Polish, Russian	kapitan
Catalan	capità
Chinese	chia pi tan
Czech	kapitán
Danish	Kaptain
Dutch	kapitein
English	captain
Estonian, Swedish	kapten
Finnish	kapteeni
French	capitaine
German	Kapitän
Hindustani, Turkish	kaptan
Hawaiian	kapena
Hungarian	kapitány
Irish	captaoin
Italian	capitano
Lettish	kapteinis
Lithuanian	kapitonas
Malay	kapiten
Norwegian	kaptein
Persian	kapudân
Portuguese	capitão
Rumanian	căpitan
Serbo-Croat	kapetan
Spanish	capitán

INTERLINGUA WORDS—In many cases words of this international language are common to most of the languages of the world, as shown by this comparison.

lary basically familiar to them, for it is not a new artificial language but a natural language without being a national language.

For those who feel that peace in the world will come closer if peoples talk to peoples in a language that all men understand, Interlingua has great emotional as well as intellectual appeal.

Earlier World Organization

The beginnings of the work on Interlingua go back to an earlier world organization, the International Research Council, at whose suggestion IALA was founded. Some of those who got the research started have not lived to see the fruiting of their ideas. Among these were Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, the chemist, Ambassador and Mrs. Dave Hennen Morris, General James G. Harbord, Radio Corporation of America, General John J. Carty of American Telephone & Telegraph Company, Dr. Stephen Duggan, Institute of International Education, Dr. John H. Finley of The New York Times, Dr. Arthur A. Hamerschlag of the Research Corporation, and Dr. Paul Monroe of Teachers College, Columbia University.

Today Interlingua has the enthusiasm of Dr. Henry Goddard Leach, president of the American Scandinavian Foundation, who is also president of the International Auxiliary Language Association. Mrs. Millicent C. McIntosh, president of Barnard College, is vice-president of IALA, which is affiliated with Barnard as the Institute of Interlinguistics.

Work on the Interlingua dictionary was begun at the University of Liverpool under Prof. William E. Collinson. Rockefeller Foundation gave a grant to the University for that purpose. IALA's international staff of linguists was dispersed during World War II and a second international staff was organized in New York under the direction of E. Clark Stillman, now director of the Belgian American Educational Foundation.

Dictionary Produced

Research Corporation gave generous grants toward IALA's linguistic laboratory. Research was completed and the dictionary and grammar produced under the director of Dr. Alexander Gode. A staff in New York, with Mrs. Mary Bray, executive director, is explaining and applying the new language to many situations, cooperatively with other organizations.

In the early stages of the use of the new language most of its use is likely to be written. In writing Interlingua the bother of complex grammar does not get in the way of expression. If you write a letter in Interlingua, you can mail it with a good chance that it will be understood by those who have never even heard of the language.

Experiments are under way in using Interlingua as the first course in languages other than one's native language. As a root it is a helpful step to national language learning.

Interlingua does not look too strange to eyes accustomed to reading English, and it reads relatively easily, as demonstrated by this excerpt:

Engia es necessari pro toto que occurre in le mundo. In tempores passate le plus grande parte del energia applicate esseva fornite per le fortia muscular del homines e del animales domestic.

Hodie carbon, petrolo, aqua, e ligno nos da le grosso del fortia motor. Vostre musculos e mies es exempte de labor nimis dur.

Fundamentalmente tote le energia de nostre terra veni del sol. Le calor e le lumine del sol—octo minutas distante de nos in tempore de viage del radiation—es cosa vital.

Now here are the three paragraphs above in their original English.

Energy is necessary for everything that happens in the world. In olden days, most of the applied energy was furnished by the muscle and brawn of men and domesticated animals.

Today coal, oil, water, and wood give us our gross power. Your muscle and mine are spared from working too hard.

Basically all the energy of this earth of ours comes from the sun. The heat and light of the sun, eight minutes away from us measured by radiation's travel-time, is a matter of life.

Science News Letter, July 5, 1952

AERONAUTICS

Instrument-Flying Helicopter Successful at Higher Speeds

► RECENT TESTS of instrument-flying with a single-rotor helicopter proved satisfactory at speeds above that of minimum power but unsatisfactory at low speeds.

Lateral-direction problems were encountered at the low speeds and during precision maneuvers. Object of the tests is to increase the usefulness of the helicopter, particularly in blind and night flying.

The instrument-flying trials were made at the aeronautical laboratories of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Langley Field, Va., and results are available in an NACA report by Almer D. Crim, John P. Reeder and James B. Whitten, all of Langley.

Included in the trials were standard instruments now used on airplanes. The conclusion is that special instruments are desirable under all conditions and necessary for sustained low-speed blind flight.

With standard airplane instruments, the report states, normal blind-flying maneuvers were possible in the helicopter at speeds above 45 knots (approximately 52 miles per hour). However, close and constant attention to flight instruments was necessary. Increasing difficulty was encountered at lower speeds, and flight below 25 knots was possible only for very short periods, the scientists report.

Science News Letter, July 5, 1952

ENGINEERING

Beaten Path May Not Lead To Executive Positions

► ENGINEERS WHO can get off the beaten path may reach top executive positions more quickly than if they follow the well-worn trails of men who have gone before them.

"An engineer must possess many qualities to enable him to climb to the top," said C. M. Hines of the Westinghouse Air Brake Co., Wilmerding, Pa., "but certainly two of the more important qualities are creativeness and initiative."

Speaking to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., Mr. Hines said the engineer must be able to find new and better ways of doing things. Furthermore, he must have the initiative to translate his ideas into action.

"Initiative," he said, "is the explosive mixture ignited by the spark of creativeness."

Engineers are preferred today for top managerial jobs, recent surveys indicate. Columbia University reports that 41% of all top management executives are engineering graduates.

A different study reveals that 92% of a large group of industrial firms "consider professionally trained engineers as potential general management executives."

Science News Letter, July 5, 1952

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